

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present abstract with the following new abstract.

The present invention relates to novel, organically modified aerogels, uses thereof, and a process for producing them in which a) a hydrogel is introduced as an initial charge, b) the hydrogel obtained in step a) is subjected to surface modification, and c) the surface-modified gel obtained in step b) is dried. The present invention additionally relates to novel, organically modified wet gels, to a process for producing them, and to their use.

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 6 after line 10.

Figure 1 and Figure 2 are images of the aerogels of the present invention. Figure 1 is an image from a light microscope and Figure 2 is a scanning electron microscope image.